

Talking Points

Announcement of Kemper County coal gasification project

December 12, 2006

- We're here today to provide details on Mississippi Power's proposal to build an advanced coal gasification project in Kemper County.
- Appreciate Mississippi Power trying to find a way to make productive use of the state's natural resource, lignite, which would be locally mined in partnership with North American Coal and then used to produce electricity with significantly fewer emissions.
- We know that for this gasification plant to be selected, it must be the best option over a number of other options, some of which would include plants that would be built not in Mississippi but in Alabama or Georgia.
- We know we're in a competition for what would be a major economic development opportunity. We'll work to win this competition and do what's in the state's best interest and get this plant built in Mississippi.
- The economic impact from the project would be dramatic.

- Nearly \$2 billion investment, about 1,000 construction jobs over a three-year period.
- Nearly 300 full time jobs when the plant becomes operational.
- Many service providers to follow.
- Property owners who will have the opportunity to sell the lignite under their land.
- But another impact is no less important: This project brings hope and the promise of a brighter future to East Mississippi, one area of the state that desperately needs it.
- This project's goal goes beyond just providing affordable, reliable electric energy for the future of Mississippi.
- It also shows genuine interest by these outstanding companies in helping Mississippi gain a new reputation as a leader in advanced, clean, efficient coal technologies.

- And that is good news.